

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DETECTIONS

There have been no detections of glyphosate contamination of soil, groundwater or surface water in Vermont. The Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets laboratory has done extensive analytical methodology development for testing glyphosate residues. As cooperative project with the EPA Environmental Testing and Investigation Laboratory, the Vermont Agricultural Laboratory conducted a training workshop and seminar for other state environmental laboratories. As part of this methods development work, Vermont has conducted sampling at sites of glyphosate known use.

Glyphosate is considered to be very immobile in the environment. Residues of glyphosate in soil and water bind very tightly to organic matter and are degraded very rapidly by soil microorganisms. Based on these characteristics, the EPA did not consider it necessary to include glyphosate in the list of analytes for the National Pesticides in Groundwater Survey conducted in 1989 and 1990.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets supports the issuance of susceptibility waivers for the herbicide glyphosate. Although the use of glyphosate in Vermont is widespread, the available environmental fate data and the lack of detections in groundwater or surface water on a state and national scale support the conclusion that glyphosate does not present a risk to the groundwater resources of Vermont.